

CLAIMS

1. A golf tee comprising a shaft adapted for insertion into a surface of ground, a pivotable support portion mounted atop an upper end of the shaft, the pivotable support portion having a plurality of upright prong members mounted thereupon, the prong members being adapted in use to support a golf ball placed thereon:
2. A golf tee in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that the pivotable support portion is threadingly engaged with the upper end of the shaft.
3. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the pivotable support portion has an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the upper portion includes a pivotable portion.
4. A golf tee in accordance with claim 3, characterised in that the pivotable portion is pivotably mounted adjacent the upper end of the shaft by a pivotable connection means.
5. A golf tee in accordance with claim 4, characterised in that the pivotable connection means is a ball and socket assembly.
6. A golf tee in accordance any of claims 3 to 5, characterised in that the lower portion of the pivotable support portion is provided with a socket, wherein the pivotable portion is complementary in configuration to the socket, the pivotable portion of the upper portion being adapted to be engagingly received by the socket.
7. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the shaft is provided with a stopper portion disposed adjacent to the upper end of the shaft.

8. A golf tee in accordance with claim 6, characterised in that the stopper portion is provided with a downwardly sloping surface.
9. A golf tee in accordance with claim 7, characterised in that the downwardly sloping surface has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.
- 5 9. A golf tee in accordance with any of claims 7 to 8, characterised in that the stopper portion is provided with a guidance marker, wherein the guidance marker is disposed diametrically opposite the downwardly sloping surface.
- 10 10. A golf tee in accordance with any of claims 6 to 9, characterised in that the stopper portion is provided with a plurality of leg portions extending downwardly from a lower surface thereof.
11. A golf tee comprising a base portion with at least one cavity and at least one pivotable support portion pivotably mounted on an upper surface thereof, the or each pivotable support portion having a plurality of upright prong members mounted thereupon, the prong members being adapted in use to support a golf ball placed thereupon, wherein the or each pivotable support member is receivable within the cavity.
- 15 12. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the pivotable support portion has three prong members mounted thereupon.
13. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that each prong member has a pointed portion at an upper end thereof.
- 20 14. A golf tee in accordance with claim 14, characterised in that each pointed portion is substantially conical.
15. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding, characterised in that the prong members are equidistantly and equiangularly arranged upon the pivotable

support portion in a substantially annular configuration, thereby forming a support surface to support a golf ball placed thereupon, whilst maintaining minimal contact therewith.

5 16. A golf tee in accordance with any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the prong members are arranged in close proximity to each other upon the pivotable support member, the arrangement of the prong members defining a space therebetween, wherein a golf ball placed atop the prong members has minimal surface area disposed within the space.

10 17. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a longitudinal length of the plurality of prong members on a single pivotable support portion is substantially the same.

18. A golf tee in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the longitudinal length of the prong members is variable and selected to suit a particular intended golf stroke.

15 19. A golf tee in accordance with any one of claims 11 to 19, characterised in that the base portion comprises a first portion having a substantially horizontal upper surface, and a second portion having a downwardly sloping surface.

20. A golf tee in accordance with claim 20, characterised in that the downwardly sloping surface has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.

20 21. A golf tee in accordance with any one of claims 11 to 20, characterised in that the base portion has three pivotable portions pivotably mounted thereupon.